

For longtime residents of Washington State, it is jarring to see Mount Rainier without snow on its peak. In just 4 days this summer, 4 days in late June, the peak of the heat dome, the mountain lost 30 percent of its total snow cover. This is a visual demonstration that climate change is real.

The lack of snow became more notable as the summer progressed, and this heat is an ecological issue and an economic issue. Washington State's shellfish industry is among the largest in the Nation, contributing \$270 million to the State economy and supporting nearly 3,000 jobs.

The heat dome this summer devastated shellfish farms that make up the core of this industry. Shellfish growers reported shellfish baking to death, literally, in shallow water and on the beach. Taylor Shellfish, located in my district, reported losing over 2 million clam seeds.

As our planet warms and climate change takes hold, these extreme weather events are becoming more common, costing lives and critically damaging our environment and our economy.

Against this backdrop, our need to pass transformational climate change legislation becomes even more stark and more urgent. We must invest in electric vehicle infrastructure. We must dramatically expand public transit. We must build an energy grid using renewable sources of power.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create tens of thousands of jobs and build a sustainable society for future generations. My district, my State, and our planet depend on it.

INDEPENDENCE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, October 11 is, in South Dakota, Native American Day.

Now, when America turns its eyes to Indian reservations, so often—too often—the focus is on poverty, despair, dysfunction. But there are wonderful stories from Indian Country as well, stories of hope, opportunity, hard work, success, entrepreneurship.

With that in mind, I want to talk to you about Tashina Red Hawk. She is a 17-year-old member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is an excellent student, and she is a rodeo queen. She is my friend, and let me tell you, Madam Speaker, she is impressive.

Tashina graduated early from high school, and then, when the pandemic hit and her college classes went online, rather than do what so many teens did, spending more time on social media or video games, she decided to become an entrepreneur. It is just an amazing story.

Her local coffee shop had remained closed during the pandemic, so Tashina

saw an opportunity. She wanted to save money for college.

Again, as I said, she is an excellent student. She wants to be a veterinarian. Now, she knows that path is not going to be easy, and it is going to take a few dollars in the bank. She knew that this business opportunity would give her a wonderful chance.

Here she is in front of Tashina's Coffee. She also wanted to make sure that her local community, her small town, had the same amenities that large towns do, and I think we can all agree that a powerful cup of coffee is a great amenity. From firsthand experience, I can tell you that her coffee really is excellent.

She works so hard, Madam Speaker, long days, long weeks, to make this business a success. Tashina is passionate about instilling a sense of independence and hard work among other young people on her reservation.

This woman is going places. I am proud to say that she is my friend.

Her father sums it up well. He said, Tashina "is not a victim. She is an advocate."

Now, Tashina's story is one of many throughout Indian Country and the State of South Dakota that don't get the attention that they deserve. I think of so many Tribal leaders that I have met with over the years who choose self-reliance: Leslie Crow, our office's inaugural Ben Reifel fellow. She is a teacher, a college instructor, a small business woman.

I think of Lakota Vogel. She is the executive director of the Four Bands Community Fund, and she works with Tribal members to build economic opportunity on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

I think of Myrna Thompson, secretary of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, whose long-term service as secretary of that Tribe has been a consistent and reliable source of leadership for her people.

Madam Speaker, there are so many others. It has been clear to me that Native American people across this country are resilient. And those who choose hard work and independence over reliance, they are so often successful, and they are so often strong.

They provide us a great opportunity. We can be more like them. We can be more like Tashina and Lakota and Leslie and Myrna.

This Native American Day, we should all take a moment to admire their hard work and entrepreneurship, and we should follow their example. If there were more Tashina Red Hawks, we would have a better Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH JEAN BECK VUNA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant. We use that term frequently

and often too casually, but the individual I am speaking about unquestionably defines the term and sets an example we should all strive to achieve.

Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna has served as my district office casework manager for 20 years. She has served the Congress and the American people for over 33 years. Prior to serving my constituents, she worked for Congressman Glenn Anderson and Congressman Stephen Horn from Long Beach, California.

It is worth noting that the bitter partisan politics of today have never touched Elizabeth's commitment to service. She has worked for Democrats and Republicans without concern for political philosophy. It is that dedication, that determination to help people, and that diligence that truly makes her irreplaceable.

Elizabeth will be retiring on September 30. When she does, we will be losing one of the most effective and compassionate caseworkers in the history of the Congress. Yes, I know that sounds boastful, but it is quite simply the truth.

Little did I know when I hired Elizabeth in 2002 what a profound impact she would have on the lives of so many of my constituents and on me.

Elizabeth began her career in public service because, when her brother returned home from the Vietnam war, he could find no assistance for his PTSD and Agent Orange-related illnesses. She decided it would be her mission to ensure that other veterans would not face a similar fate and often focused her efforts in helping veterans obtain the benefits they so richly deserved.

She also felt an affinity for immigrants since she and her husband adopted five orphaned children from Tonga. That experience led her to become a local expert in international adoption.

Her compassion for all immigrants also led her to become a recognized expert in the field, and she diligently advocated for all immigrants to be afforded all the benefits legally available to them.

The number of constituents Elizabeth has helped in a substantive manner are in the tens of thousands, and I am probably undercounting.

She has mentored other congressional staff and given guidance and direction to everyone who was lucky enough to ask her to do so.

Not a week goes by that I do not hear from some of my constituents about this miracle or feat that she accomplished on their behalf, whether it is large or small.

As her retirement became known, my office received dozens of emails thanking her for her service and asking if she couldn't stay just a little longer.

□ 1015

She has assisted the many studios in my district as well as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology, but perhaps